



For Immediate Release
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Dorko takes command of Gulf Region Division

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Brigadier Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko took command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division in Baghdad, on Oct. 10, 2007, from Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh at a ceremony on the Gulf Region Division's headquarters compound in Baghdad, Iraq.

"It is a great honor to be allowed to join the leaders of Iraq and the Iraqi people in rebuilding a free and democratic country, where everyone can live in peace, free from fear, in an environment that lets every citizen better their lives and reach their extraordinary potential," said Dorko as he addressed the crowd of more than 100. "I realize I've only begun to understand how challenging our work is, and that in the midst of progress there will always be difficult days, some setbacks, and new challenges. But as I close in on 30 years of service in the U.S. Army, there's no place that I would rather be than here, side-by-side with our Iraqi friends, working to make a difference every day."

The ceremony began with a Color Guard presentation – members of each branch of service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilians and the country of Iraq were represented. The reviewing officer was Gen. David Petraeus, commanding general of Multi-National Force-Iraq. Other dignitaries in attendance included U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker; British Lt. Gen. W.R. Rollo, deputy commander of the Multi-National Force-Iraq; the Iraqi Minister of Electricity Karim Wahid; and



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko takes command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division as Multinational Force – Iraq Commanding General Gen. David H. Petraeus passes him the unit guidon in a change of command ceremony Oct. 10, 2007 in Baghdad, Iraq. Former Gulf Region Division Commander Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh looks on. (U.S. Army photo by Norris Jones)

the Iraqi Minister of Health Abdul Samed. Providing music for the ceremony was an ensemble from the 3rd Infantry Division Band.

Dorko assumes command of GRD after serving as Commander of the Southwestern Division since June 21, 2004. His previous assignment was Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. As Southwestern Division Commander, Dorko oversaw the 3,000-person engineering and construction organization for four district offices in Little Rock, Ark.; Tulsa, Okla.; Fort Worth; and Galveston, Texas.

Dorko graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1978. He earned master's degrees in Construction Management from the George Washington University, and National Security Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

GRD's reconstruction effort is two pronged: Rebuild the critical yet long neglected infrastructure to provide essential utility services; and deliver to local communities smaller, yet vital, projects providing facilities for basic services in healthcare, transportation and education.

GRD projects include renovation and construction of hospitals, primary health-care facilities, municipal buildings, water and wastewater treatment facilities, police stations and border forts, electrical power generation and distribution systems, roads, and seaports and airports. So far,

there have been more than 4,694 planned projects, 4,112 completions and 582 started projects.

"Gulf Region Division, you epitomize what is best about America, your willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others – it has been an honor to work with you," said Walsh, as he relinquished command. "You have sent a clear message every day throughout the world, which is loud and clear – about our patriotism."

Walsh will be the Special Assistant to the Chief of Engineers – Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp – at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters in Washington, DC.

Note: For more information, contact the Gulf Region Division by calling 540-665-5339 or e-mail cegrd.pao@tac01.usace.army.mil. Visit our Web site at www.grd.usace.army.mil.